NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Intended Acreage and Condition of Peas

On the basis of reports from 203 firms the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics issued on May 24 statistics on the intended acreage of green peas for canning and the condition as of May 1. For the United States as a whole the 1926 acreage is 90 per cent of that in 1925, and the condition on May 1st was 84 per cent as compared with 90 per cent on May 1, 1925. The following table summarizes the Bureau's announcement:

	Firms reporting	1926 acreage compared with 1925	Condition May 1 1925	1926
		Per cent	*Per cent*	*Per cent*
California	4	47	82	70
Colorado	2	73	..	100
Delaware	8	89	100	80
Illinois	5	121	95	75
Indiana	10	86	96	77
Maine	2	101	..	..
Maryland	22	85	99	84
Michigan	3	109	99	..
Minnesota	7	90	95	88
New Jersey	2	89	..	92
New York	35	90	94	..
Ohio	5	85	100	91
Pennsylvania	6	77	91	83
Utah	7	83	94	95
Wisconsin	78	90	84	83
Other states	7	93	96	95
Total	203	90	90	84

Tomato Canners Call Upon President Coolidge and Secretary Hoover

During the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Canners Association arrangements were made through Representative Free of California for a delegation of tomato canners to call upon President Coolidge the following day to voice the need of the tomato canning industry for greater protection from foreign competitors whose production costs are much below those of American canners.

The delegation was cordially received by President Coolidge, who not only showed his keen interest but also, by the questions he asked, his quick grasp of the problems with which the industry is contending. Presentation of the canners' views was made by President E. E. Chase of the National Canners Association, assisted by J. Richard Phillips of the Tri-State Packers Association.

Later the delegation called upon Mr. Hoover, Secretary of the Department of Commerce, who expressed his pleasure in meeting the canners and his sympathetic interest in their mission.

Distribution of Membership List

Copies of the Membership List of the National Canners Association, revised to May, 1926, are being mailed to the members of the Association with this issue of the Information Letter. Members, who for any reason fail to receive copies, should notify the Association and others will be promptly sent.

Labeling Bill Introduced in Changed Form

In H. R. 10898, introduced by Representative Swing, amendments were proposed to the requirements governing the marking of foreign-grown products imported into the United States. Hearings were conducted on this bill in April. Representative Swing on May 20 introduced another bill (H. R. 12315), in which the proposed requirements would be limited to nuts, raw fruits and raw vegetables. The amendment provides "that for the purposes of this Act nuts, raw fruits, and raw vegetables, grown outside of the United States and its Territories shall also be deemed to be misbranded, if there be not plainly and conspicuously stated on the package or label (a) the name of the country where grown in letters at least as large as those in the name of any other place on such package or label, and (b) the common name and the quantity by weight or volume of any such products, if commingled with nuts, raw fruits, or raw vegetables grown in continental United States."

Sustains Wisconsin Workman's Compensation Act

In an opinion delivered May 24th, the U. S. Supreme Court sustained the constitutionality of the Wisconsin Workman's Compensation Act in its limitation of the judicial review of the findings of fact of the Industrial Commission to cases in which "the findings of fact by the Commission do not support the order or award". This limitation was held by the State Supreme Court to mean that the findings of fact made by the Industrial Commission are conclusive, if there is any evidence to support them.

It was argued in the appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court that the employer in a suit for compensation under the Act is entitled, under the Fourteenth Amendment, to his day in court, and that he does not secure it unless he may submit to a court the question of the preponderance of the evidence on the issues raised. The U. S. Supreme Court held that a complete answer to this claim is found in the elective or voluntary character of the Wisconsin Compensation Act. In view of such an opportunity for choice, the employer who elects to accept the law may not complain that in the plan for assessing the employer's compensation for injury sustained, there is no particular form of judicial review. More than this, the employer in this case, having elected to accept the provisions of the law, and such benefits and immunities as it gives, may not escape its burdens by asserting that it is unconstitutional. The election is a waiver and estops such complaints.

Navy Department to Buy Canned Apricots and Peas

The Navy Department is asking for bids, to be opened July 13, on canned apricots—40,000 lbs. for delivery at Boston, 80,000 lbs. at Brooklyn, 200,000 lbs. at Hampton Roads, Va., 400,000 lbs. at Mare Island, and 120,000 lbs. at Bremerton, Wash. Copies of schedule No. 5427 on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington.

The Navy is also seeking bids, to be opened July 27 (Schedule 5418) for canned peas—40,000 lbs. for delivery at Boston, 80,000 lbs. at Brooklyn, and 500,000 lbs. at Hampton Roads.

Alternative Methods Available for Spoilage Claims

The Association recently received an enquiry with reference to the results of the conferences of the distributors and the canners' conference committee on swell adjustments, which are fully covered in the Association's Circular No. 14-L.

As a result of these conferences two alternative methods are available. One method provides that the canner gives a full guarantee against spoilage, agrees to accept such proof as can be given of spoilage occurring in retailers' hands, and reserves the right to inspect the swells found in wholesalers' stocks. The other method provides for a flat allowance in lieu of normal swells, it being understood that spoils in excess of certain amounts to be agreed upon are also to be paid for by the canner.

The Association provides an investigation service for canners who elect to give a full guarantee against spoilage, which service is also available to canners who have accepted a flat allowance and received claims for excessive spoilage.

Canners who desire to give a full guarantee, rather than to make a flat allowance, should write the Association for Circular No. 14-L, which gives complete information with respect to the service provided.

Increased Rates on Canned Foods Suspended

The Interstate Commerce Commission has suspended from May 15 until September 12 the operation of schedules proposing to increase the rate on canned foods in carloads from La Crosse, Wis., and Winona, Minn., group to Danville and Springfield, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., and points taking the same rates, from 24½ cents to 28½ cents per 100 pounds. The proceeding was assigned for hearing at the Great Northern Hotel in Chicago on June 12.

U. S. Standards for Sweet Potatoes

In addition to standards previously issued and noted in the Information Letter, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced the U. S. standards for sweet potatoes (1926). The text of the definitions and standards follows:

U. S. No. 1 shall consist of sweet potatoes of similar varietal characteristics which are firm, not badly misshapen; which are free from black rot, decay, and freezing injury; and free from damage caused by dirt, secondary rootlets, bruises, cuts, scars, growth cracks, scald, scurf or other diseases, weevils or other insects, and mechanical or other means.

Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each sweet potato shall not be less than 1¾ inches nor more than 3½ inches, and the length shall not be less than 3 inches nor more than 10 inches, but the length may be less than 3 inches if the diameter is 2 inches or more.

Tolerances.—In order to allow for variations other than size, incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 per cent, by

weight, of the sweet potatoes in any lot may be below the requirements of this grade, but not to exceed a total of 5 per cent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, and not more than 1/5th of this amount, or 1 per cent, shall be allowed for sweet potatoes affected with soft rot.

In addition, not more than 10%, by weight, of the sweet potatoes in any lot may not meet the size requirements, but not more than one-half of this tolerance, or 5 per cent, shall be allowed for sweet potatoes which are below the minimum size requirements.

U. S. No. 2 shall consist of sweet potatoes of similar varietal characteristics which are firm and which are free from black rot, decay, and freezing injury; and free from serious damage caused by dirt, bruises, cuts, scars, growth cracks, scald, disease, weevils or other insects and mechanical or other means.

Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each sweet potato shall not be less than 1½ inches nor more than 4 inches.

Tolerances.—In order to allow for variations other than size, incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 per cent, by weight, of the sweet potatoes in any lot may be below the requirements of this grade, but not to exceed 1/10th of this amount, or 1 per cent, shall be allowed for sweet potatoes affected with soft rot.

In addition, not more than 10 per cent, by weight, of the sweet potatoes in any lot may not meet the size requirements, but not more than one-half of this tolerance, or 5 per cent, shall be allowed for sweet potatoes which are below the minimum size requirements.

U. S. Fancy shall consist of sweet potatoes of similar varietal characteristics which are firm, smooth and well shaped; which are free from black rot, decay, and freezing injury; and free from damage caused by dirt, secondary rootlets, bruises, cuts, scars, growth cracks, scald, scurf or other disease, weevils or other insects and mechanical or other means.

The diameter of each sweet potato shall not be less than 2 inches nor more than 3½ inches and the length shall be not less than 3 inches nor more than 6 inches, but the length may be less than 3 inches if the diameter is 2¼ inches or more.

Tolerances.—In order to allow for variations other than size incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 per cent, by weight, of the sweet potatoes in any lot may be below the requirements of this grade, but not to exceed a total of 3 per cent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damages, and not more than ⅓ of this amount or 1 per cent, shall be allowed for sweet potatoes affected with soft rot.

In addition, not more than 10 per cent, by weight, of the sweet potatoes in any lot may not meet the size requirements, but not more than one-half of this tolerance, or 5 per cent, shall be allowed for sweet potatoes which are below the minimum size requirements.

Unclassified shall consist of sweet ptoatoes which are not graded in conformity with any of the foregoing grades.

Definitions of Terms as used in these grades.—"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the sweet potatoes in the same container shall have skins of similar color, such as white, yellow or red. Moist and dry types shall not be mixed.

"Firm" means that the sweet potato shall not be flabby or shriveled.

"Badly misshapen" means that the sweet potato is so misshapen as to cause a waste for ordinary use of more than 20%, by weight, of the potato.

"Damage" means any injury which materially affects the appearance of the lot or causes appreciable waste in the ordinary preparation for use.

"Serious damage" means any injury not including badly misshapen potatoes, which seriously affects the appearance of the lot, or causes a waste of more than 20%, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use. Black rot shall be considered as serious damage.

"Diameter" means the greatest dimension at right angles to the longitudinal axis.

"Smooth" means that in addition to other defects which cause roughness, sweet potatoes shall be free from prominent veining.

Publications of Interest to Canning Crops Growers

In its Circular No. 86 the Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., gives an outline of its program for testing out varieties of canning crops and for investigations of cultural methods and measures for insect and disease control. Problems being given special attention include a study of diseases transmitted in pea seed and the location of areas where disease-free pea seed may be obtained; measures for the control of the cherry maggot, the spinach maggot, and the carrot rust fly; fertilizer and variety tests with spinach; fertilizer and rotation tests with vegetables; and various problems in the growing of tomatoes, sweet corn, and peas for the canning factory. Attempts are also being made to improve the quality of fruits and vegetables grown for the canning factory by testing varieties and by breeding new sorts.

The Extension Service of the Main College of Agriculture at Orono has issued as Bulletin No. 163 a 16-page illustrated pamphlet entitled "Growing Peas for Canning," by M. D. Jones and A. K. Gardner. The Bulletin is based on a survey in 1925 of 291 farms in five counties of Maine. Copies of the Bulletin are available from the Extension Service at Orono.

"Leading Commercial Varieties of Canning Peas" is the title of a 20-page illustrated bulletin (No. 382) issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Madison, Wis. The bulle-

tin, which is the work of E. J. Delwiche and Earl J. Renard, discusses the twelve leading varieties of canning peas now grown in Wisconsin, which are classified into three general groups. A table is presented that summarizes in convenient form the more important characteristics of these twelve leading varieties.

April Exports of Canned Foods

As compared with April, 1925, exports of canned foods during April of the present year were featured by largely increased shipments of canned beef, canned vegetables and canned pears, somewhat larger exports of canned pineapple, with declines in all the other items. The exports as reported by the Department of Commerce were as follows:

	1925 *Pounds*	1926 *Pounds*
Canned meats, total	1,807,160	1,476,953
Beef	110,634	276,727
Sausage	418,536	345,669
Canned vegetables, total	3,270,503	5,147,975
Canned fruits, total	4,944,687	4,183,450
Apricots	863,281	251,980
Peaches	1,662,691	897,157
Pears	381,586	831,174
Pineapple	876,276	987,730
Condensed milk	3,757,124	3,684,806
Evaporated milk	9,489,949	9,260,711
Canned salmon	1,417,910	1,400,319
Canned sardines	5,481,565	3,977,778

Revenue Freight Loadings Exceed Million Mark

For the first time this year, loadings of revenue freight exceeded one million cars during the week ended May 15, totaling 1,030,162 cars. This is the earliest period in any year on record that one million cars have been loaded during any one week. The nearest approach was the week of May 22, 1923, when 1,015,532 cars were loaded. In 1924 the million mark was not reached until August, while last year it was July. The total for the week of May 15 this year was an increase of 33,635 cars above the preceding week, and of 44,283 cars over the corresponding week last year.

Australian Bounties on Canned Fruit

The Australian bounties on canned fruits for the present season, according to the American trade commissioner in Sydney, have been fixed at a maximum of 19 cents per dozen 30-

ounce cans of apricots, and 25 cents per dozen cans of clingstone peaches. This bounty is to be paid on condition that canners guarantee to pay growers not less than $48.50 per ton for apricots, pears and peaches for export to Great Britain only.

Australia's pack of peaches in 1925 amounted to 1,287,000 dozen 30-ounce cans; pears, 568,000 dozen cans; apricots, 415,000 dozen cans. This year's pack of peaches will be about the same, but the pear and apricot pack, it is reported, will be lower.

Quebec Canners Organize Association

Fifty some canners of the Province of Quebec have organized the Quebec Canners Association. The purpose of the Association, according to a report received by the U. S. Department of Commerce, is to increase the production of canned foods, to make experiments as to what varieties of fruits and vegetables are best adapted for canning, to study market conditions, and generally to advance the industry.

Trend of Wholesale Trade

Total sales of wholesale firms in leading lines, reporting to the Federal Reserve system from all sections of the country, were seasonally smaller in April than in March. The decline of 4 per cent in the Federal Reserve Board's composite index of wholesale trade was somewhat smaller than that which occurred between March and April in 1925. As compared with April of last year, the total volume of wholesale trade was 4 per cent larger. Substantial increases occurred in sales of groceries, meats, and drugs, but sales of dry-goods, shoes, and hardware showed declines.

Canada Assesses Dumping Duty on Australian Fruits

According to a report received by the Department of Commerce, canned peaches and apricots imported from Australia into Canada are subject to the Canadian dumping duty. Invoices for goods shipped after January 1, 1926, are being accepted subject to correction, as the Australian export bounty granted on such canned fruits is graduated and is combined with a drawback or export allowance on sugar entering into the manufacture of canned fruits, which has not yet been exactly estimated. The Canadian dumping duty assessed on Australian canned peaches and apricots is in addition to the regular duty of one-half cent per pound. Such fruit from the United States are dutiable at the rate of 2½ cents per pound.